



"Providing the most basic of human needs... food, shelter & hope"

FISH • Friends In Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut, Inc.

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Testimony for the Appropriations Hearing/Department of Housing/February 17, 2017

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Ziobron and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony today in support of the Department of Housing and their budget and all efforts being made to end homelessness in Connecticut.

My name is Thomas Campbell, and today I have HOPE. For me, this is a miracle because I didn't know the meaning of hope until I became hopeless.

Hopeless and homeless in Connecticut - no family, no friends, no money, job or food. This was me in August of 2015. The result of accepting a position from a company I was working for in Florida with the promise of a fixed salary and an apartment. Three weeks in Connecticut and that plan fell apart completely, and I was unemployed with nowhere to go in town, city, state - where I knew nothing about anybody.

In desperation and on the verge of a mental breakdown, I landed in Charlotte Hungerford Hospital where I was appointed a case manager who by the Grace of God was able to get me a bed at FISH NWCT Shelter. The staff and residents at FISH welcomed me and became my support system during this time of tribulation.

FISH provided me food, clothing, and shelter while I attended to my medical needs, searched for work and ultimately obtained an apartment of my own.

Today, I reside in the nicest apartment I have ever lived in and I have the best job I have ever had in my life. I maintain a close relationship with the FISH Shelter family, always willing to volunteer if they need me. Since I left a year ago, they have kept their doors open to me when I needed food and supplies. It was not my plan to come to Connecticut to get my life straightened out, it was God's plan. And I thank God for the people He has put in my life since August 2015.

Sincerely,

Thomas Campbell, former FISH Shelter resident

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